# U.S. Immunization Program Successful Reduction in Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Vaccination Coverage Among Young Children



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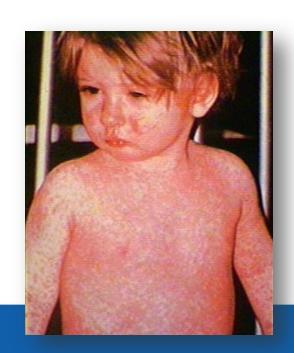
### Historical Background Measles

#### ☐ Pre-vaccine era: Each year

- > 3-4 million estimated and ~530,000 reported cases
- > 48,000 hospitalizations
- > 450-500 deaths

#### First measles vaccine licensed in 1963

- By 1968, measles incidence decreased >95% compared to pre-vaccine levels
- ➤ Between 1981 and 1986, reported cases ranged from ~1,500 to 6,000 annually



### Historical Background 1989–1991 U.S. Measles Epidemic

- From 1989 to 1991
  - > 55,000 cases, 11,000 hospitalizations and 123 deaths
- Focus: Urban areas with low vaccination coverage
  - Largest outbreaks in Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Milwaukee, New York
- Among children 16–59 months old who developed measles, only 15% had ever received MCV
- Higher risk among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic children

# 1989–1991 U.S. Measles Epidemic What Went Wrong?

- Root causes
  - Low vaccination coverage
  - Missed opportunities for immunization
  - Gaps in access to care
- ☐ Epidemic identified significant weaknesses within the national immunization infrastructure
- ☐ 1991: NVAC released a report with 13 key recommendations for improving immunization with focus on
  - Availability
  - Management
  - Measurement

### **Public Policy and Public Health Response**

#### Childhood Immunization Initiative

Led to current national immunization program (1993)

#### Vaccines for Children (VFC) program (1994)

- Section 1928 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396s)
- Purchase vaccines for eligible children
- National Immunization Survey (NIS) for vaccination coverage measurement (implemented 1994)
- Development of Immunization Information Systems
- Systematic quality improvement methods for immunization through assessment, feedback, incentives, and exchange

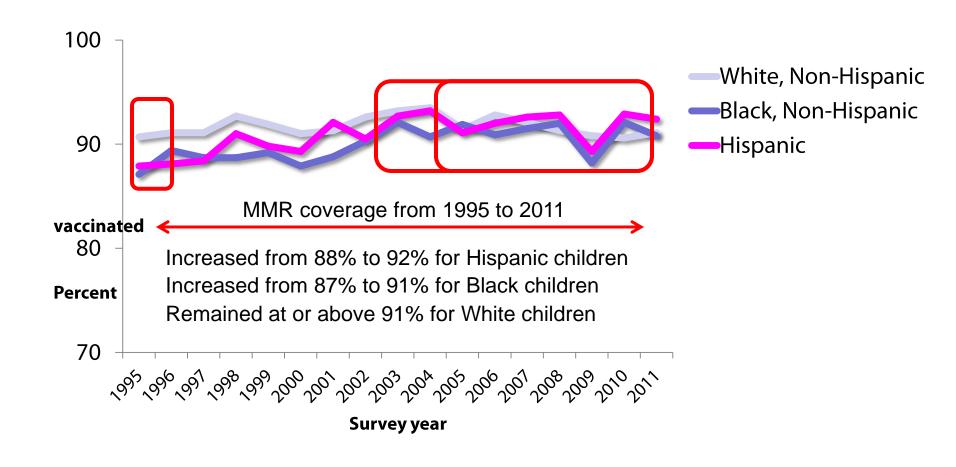
# Improving Availability of Vaccines The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

- Provides federally purchased vaccines recommended by ACIP at no cost
- Eligible children
  - > 18 years or younger and at least 1 of the following
    - Medicaid eligible
    - Uninsured
    - Underinsured (if vaccinated at an Federally qualified health center or rural health clinic)
    - Of American Indian/Alaska Native descent
- ☐ In 2011, 54.3% of children 19–35 months of age were eligible for VFC vaccine

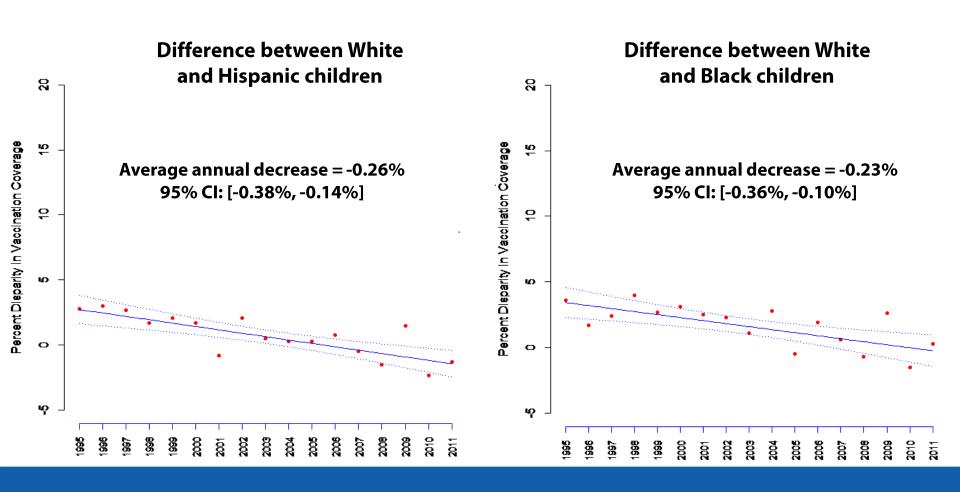
## Improving Measurement The National Immunization Survey (NIS)

- Annual survey implemented in 1994
  - National- and state- level estimates available
- Random digit dial telephone survey
  - National sample of parents of children 19–35 months old
  - Since 2011, uses dual-frame sample including cellphone and landline numbers
  - Provider records checked to verify immunizations received
- Analyses limited to children with provider- reported immunization histories
- Can evaluate disparities in immunization coverage
  - Example: MMR, Poliovirus, and DTaP

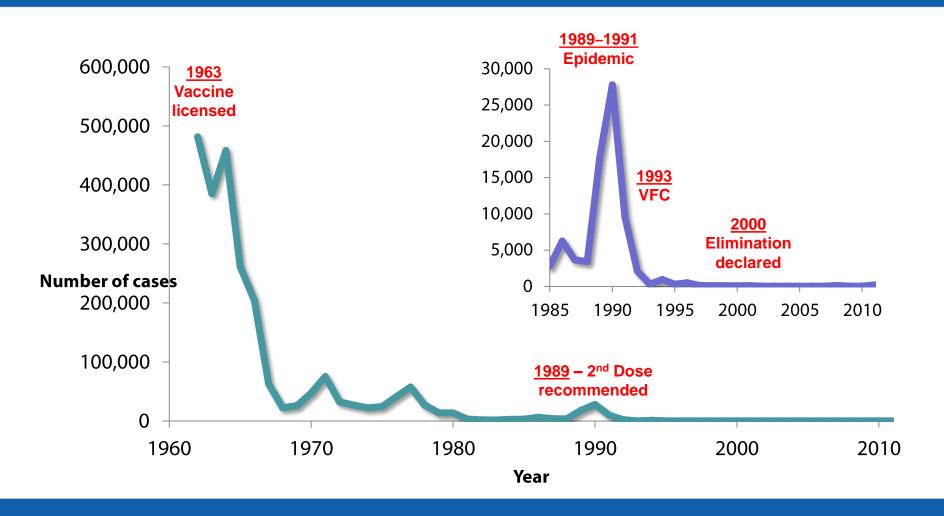
# Estimated MMR (≥1 dose) Vaccination Coverage by Racial/Ethnic Category, 1995–2011 NIS Children 19–35 Months Old



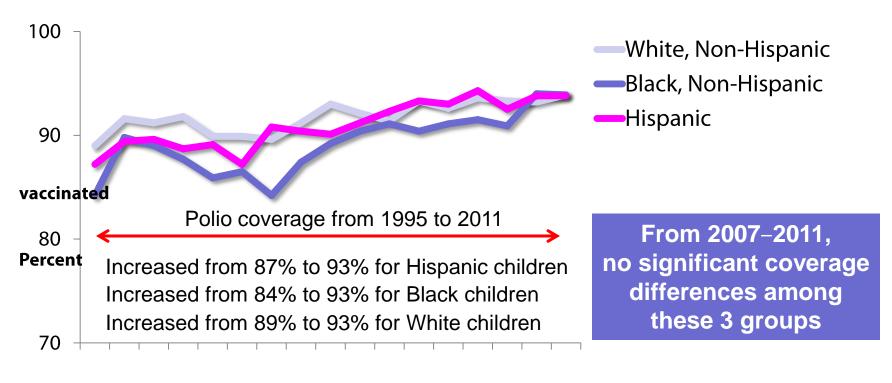
### Estimated Trend in MMR Vaccination Disparity Between Racial/Ethnic Groups, 1995–2011 NIS Children 19–35 Months Old



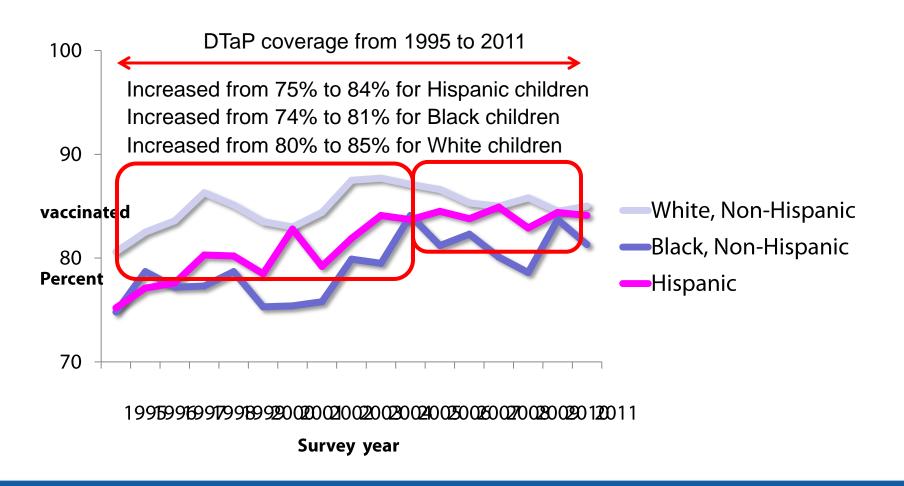
#### Measles Cases, United States, 1962–2011



# Estimated Polio (>3 doses) Vaccination Coverage by Racial/Ethnic Category, 1995–2011 NIS Children 19–35 Months Old



# Estimated DTaP (≥4 doses) Vaccination Coverage by Racial/Ethnic Category, 1995–2011 NIS Children Age 19–35 Months



#### **Summary**

- Since 1995, vaccination coverage has increased for MMR, polio, and DTaP
  - Disparities in coverage between White and Hispanic children have been eliminated
  - Disparities between White and Black children remain for DTaP vaccine
- Policy and program activities have helped achieve and maintain high vaccination coverage
  - Need to monitor impact of health care reform
  - Continue to monitor disparities to avoid "immunity gaps" in the face of potential disease importation

# Societal Benefits of the U.S. National Immunization Program

- □ Elimination of domestic transmission of polio (1994), measles (2000), and rubella (2004)
- ☐ For 2009, the routine childhood immunization program for one birth cohort (4 million births)
  - Prevented ~20 million cases of vaccine-preventable diseases and 42,000 deaths
  - ➤ Saved ~\$13.5 billion in direct costs and had total societal economic benefits of ~\$68.8 billion

# Progress Toward Eliminating Hepatitis A Disease in the United States



#### Trudy V. Murphy, MD

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### **Acute Hepatitis A Virus Infection**

- Mild disease among children
  - > 70% children <6 years asymptomatic
- Morbidity and mortality increase with age
  - > ≥70% adolescents and adults are symptomatic (including jaundice)
  - Illness lasts for up to 2 months
    - Average 27 (0–180) days of work lost
  - Case-fatality
    - 2.1% for persons ≥40 year old
    - Increased with chronic liver disease, immunosuppression
- No specific treatment (supportive care)

# Acute Hepatitis A in Highly Endemic Areas

#### Characteristics

- Crowded living conditions
- Limited access to clean water and sanitation

#### Epidemiology

- Approximately 90% of children are infected by age 10 years
- Life-long Immunity
- Acute hepatitis A disease is rare

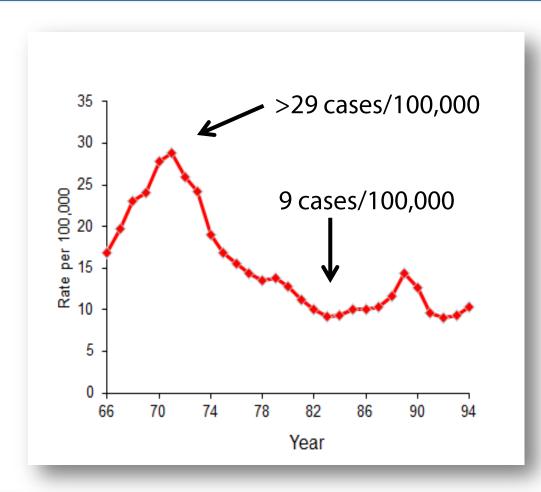
## Acute Hepatitis A in Areas in Transition to Low Endemicity

#### Epidemiology

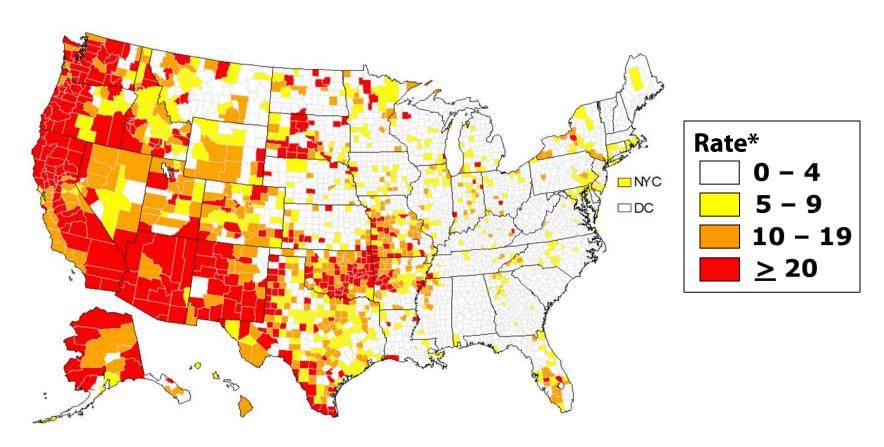
- Fewer infections among children; facilitate transmission
- More infections among adolescents and adults (≥70% cases)
- Greater morbidity and mortality
- Community-wide outbreaks and cyclic increases in disease
- Disparities by geographic area and race/ethnicity
- Hepatitis A epidemiology in the United States during the 20th century

# Pre-Vaccine Rates of Reported Acute Hepatitis A, United States, 1966–1994

- 1966–1993
  - Cyclic increases
  - Annually: ≥22,000 cases
- **1994** 
  - 26,796 cases reported
- Across all years
  - ~1 in 10 cases reported



# Rates of Reported Hepatitis A Cases by County, United States, 1987–1997



\* Cases/100,000 population National average rate ~10/100,000

# Rates of Reported Acute Hepatitis A by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 1994

Race/Ethnicity	Rate/100,000 Population
American Indian/Alaska Native	104.5
Hispanic	21.2
Non-Hispanic White	6.4
Non-Hispanic Black	5.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.3
National average	10.3

### Hepatitis A Vaccines in 1995 and 1996 Efficacy of 2–Dose Schedules

Vaccine*	Site and Age Group	Number in Trial	Vaccine Efficacy (95 %Cl)
VAQTA®, MSD	New York 2–16 years	1,037	100% (85–100%)§
HAVRIX®, SKB	Thailand 1–16 years	38,157	94% (74–98%)

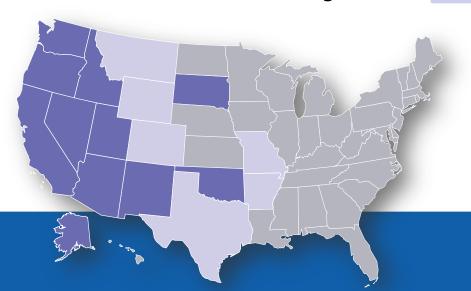
<sup>\*</sup>Pediatric formulation

<sup>§</sup>Determined 6–18 months after dose 1

# History of U.S. Hepatitis A Childhood Vaccine Recommendations, 1996–2006

#### ☐ Targeted vaccination, 1996–1999

- **>** 1996
  - Children at age 2 years in communities with high rates of disease
  - Children through teen years in outbreaks
- > 1999
  - Recommended in 11 states with rates 2x the national average
  - Considered in 6 states with rates above the national average

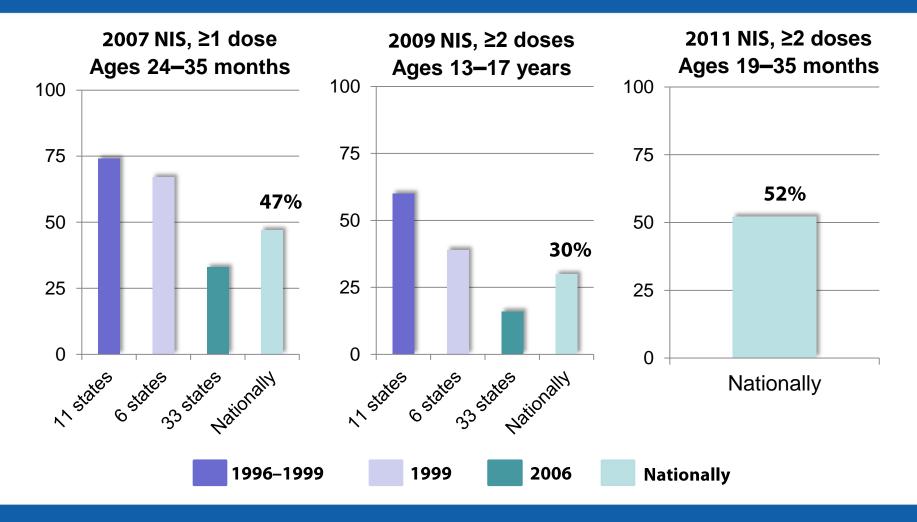


### History of U.S. Hepatitis A Childhood Vaccine Recommendations, 1996–2006

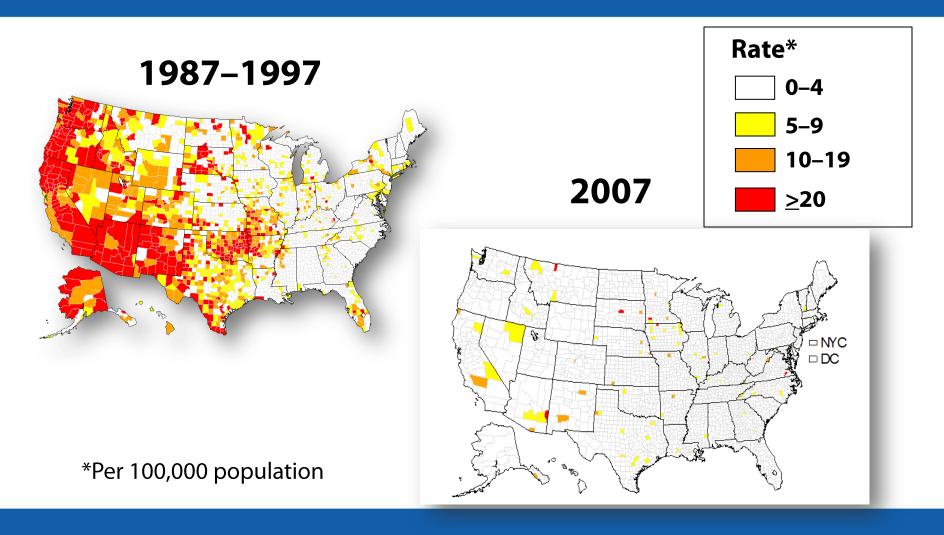
#### Universal childhood vaccination, 2006

- Recommended for use in all states at age 12 months
- Continue vaccination programs for ages 2–18 years
- Consider catch-up vaccination in outbreaks and areas with increasing disease rates

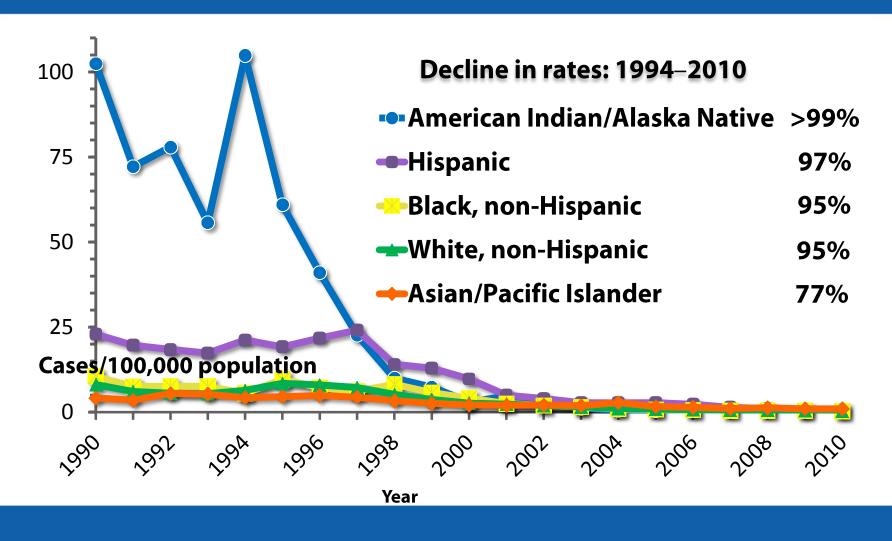
## Hepatitis A Vaccine Coverage by Area of Targeted Vaccination



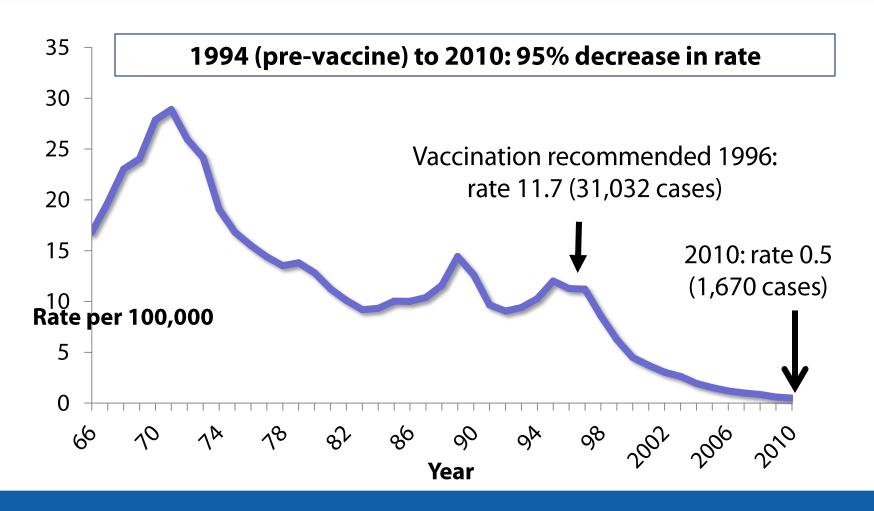
## Rates of Reported Acute Hepatitis A Cases 1987–1997 and 2007



# Rates of Reported Hepatitis A Cases by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 1990–2010



### Rates of Reported Acute Hepatitis A Cases United States, 1966–2010



# Preventing New Cases of Hepatitis A: Challenges and Opportunities

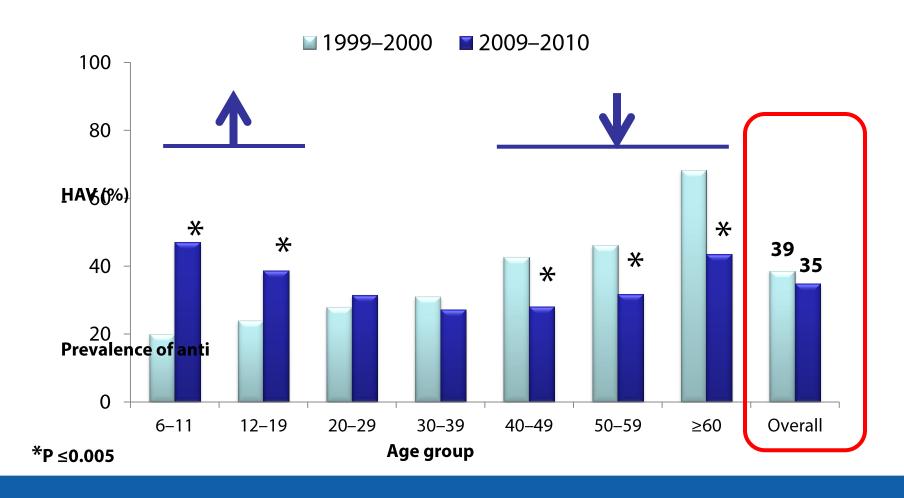
### □ A source for hepatitis A was identified in a minority of 1,670 cases reported in 2010

- Risk information available for 1,031 (62%) cases; risk identified in only 25%
- International travel
  - 14.1% of cases with travel information
  - Preventable through pre-travel vaccination
- Contaminated food/water
  - 10.4% of cases linked to outbreaks
  - Substantial public health response (e.g. vaccination) required for postexposure management of exposed persons

### **Other Challenges and Opportunities**

- Document continuing vaccine-induced protection
  - Expected for ≥25 years after 2-dose vaccination
- Prevalence of hepatitis A protection
  - National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
    - Antibody to hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV)
    - Representative sample of non-institutionalized, U.S. residents ages 6 to ≥60 years

### Prevalence of anti-HAV by Age Group, NHANES 1999–2000 and 2009–2010



#### **Summary**

- Accomplishment: Progress toward eliminating hepatitis
   A disease since 1994
  - > 95% decrease in rates of reported cases
  - Near elimination of disparities by geography and race/ethnicity
- Challenges and Opportunities: Maintain barrier to transmission and ensure protection for future generations
  - Increase hepatitis A vaccination among children and other groups at risk, e.g. international travelers
  - Consider accelerating vaccine protection for adolescents
  - Monitor for persistence of vaccine-induced protection

### Use of Vaccines to Reduce Health Disparities Among American Indian and Alaska Native Children



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# The American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Population

#### Descendants of indigenous peoples of North America

> 5.2 million people; 1.7% of the U.S. population

#### ■ 566 federally-recognized tribes

- Tribes range in size from 200 to 332,000 persons
- > 35 states have at least one tribe

#### Health care

- Indian Health Service (IHS), DHHS
  - Federal, Tribal, and urban facilities
  - 2 million persons (38%) served by IHS
  - Health care and preventive services offered with no charge to patients
- Other health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, private carrier)

### Diverse People, Cultures, Languages, and Lifestyles







Photos courtesy of the Indian Health Service/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

### Infectious Disease Disparities among AI/AN

#### History of disparities

- > 1950: Proportion of all deaths due to infections in Alaska
  - White Alaskans 3%
  - Alaska Natives 47%
- Influenza pandemic 2009
  - 4-fold increased mortality for AI/AN compared to non-AI/AN
- Vaccine-preventable childhood diseases
  - Viral infections: 1960's: Measles, mumps;1970's: Hepatitis A, hepatitis B
  - Bacterial respiratory infections: H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae

#### Environmental and household factors

Crowding, poverty, environmental smoke exposure, lack of running water

### **Hepatitis B**

- Double-stranded DNA virus
- Passed from person to person
  - Mother-to-baby
  - Child-to-child
  - Sexual contact, contaminated blood or needles
- Acute hepatitis
  - > Jaundice, fatigue, nausea
- Chronic infection
  - Risk is highest with infections occurring in infancy and childhood
  - Complications: Cirrhosis, liver failure, hepatocellular cancer
- Vaccine introduced in 1982
  - > 3-dose series

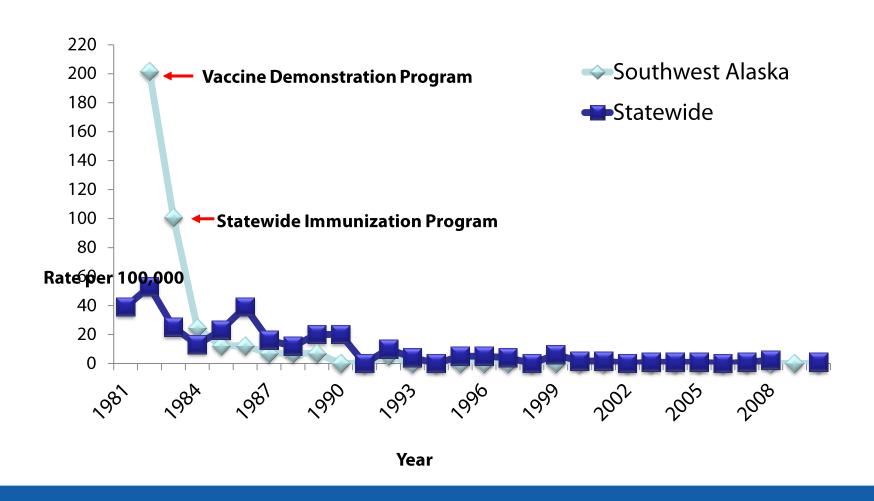




### Hepatitis B among Alaska Native (AN) Persons

- Southwest Alaska, 1970s
  - Hyperendemic levels of chronic infection: 6.4%
- Hepatitis B Vaccine Demonstration Project, 1981
  - Effectiveness
  - Duration of protection
- Statewide screening of AN persons, 1984–87
  - 3% with chronic infection
- AN hospitals were the first to
  - Test pregnant women for hepatitis B: 1980
  - Offer immune globulin to newborns of infected moms: 1980
  - Begin universal newborn immunization: 1984

# Incidence of Symptomatic Hepatitis B in Alaska Natives, 1981–2010



# Hepatitis B Immunization Coverage and Impact in Alaska

#### ■ National Immunization Survey, 1996

- Hepatitis B vaccination in children, 19–35 months old
  - AN: 94% with ≥3 doses
  - Overall U.S. population: 82% with ≥3 doses
- AN uptake remains high in subsequent surveys

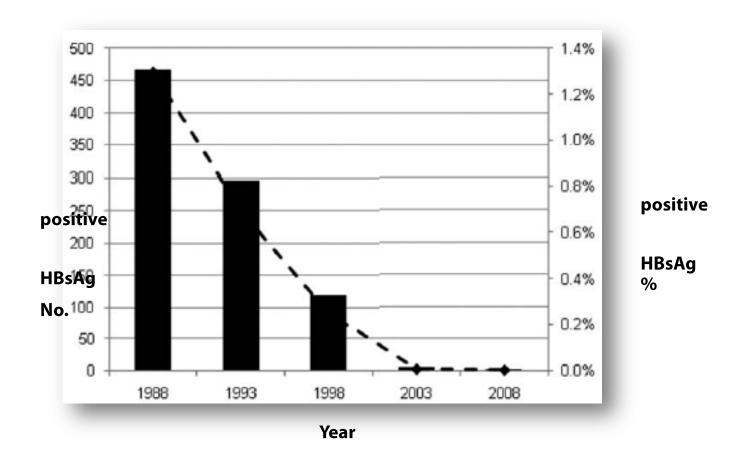
#### Acute symptomatic hepatitis B infection in AN children

- 19 cases per 100,000 in 1981
- > 0 cases since 1992

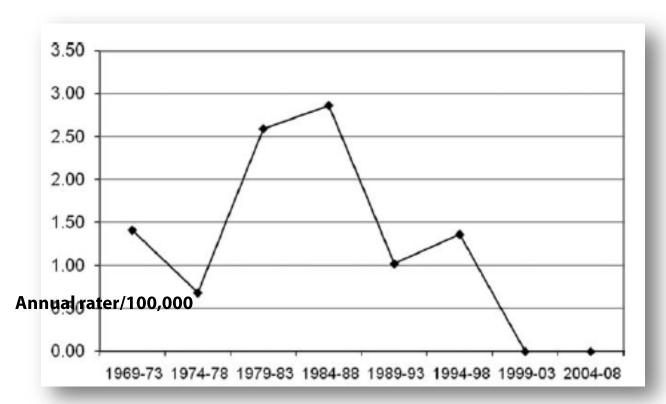
#### Hepatocellular cancer in AN children

- 17 cases from 1969 to 1998
- 0 cases since 1999

## Prevalence of Hepatitis B Surface Antigen in Alaska Native Children < 20 Years Old, 1998–2008



# Hepatocellular Cancer in Alaska Native Children < 20 Years Old, 1969–2008



**Year of diagnosis** 



Mount McKinley, Alaska

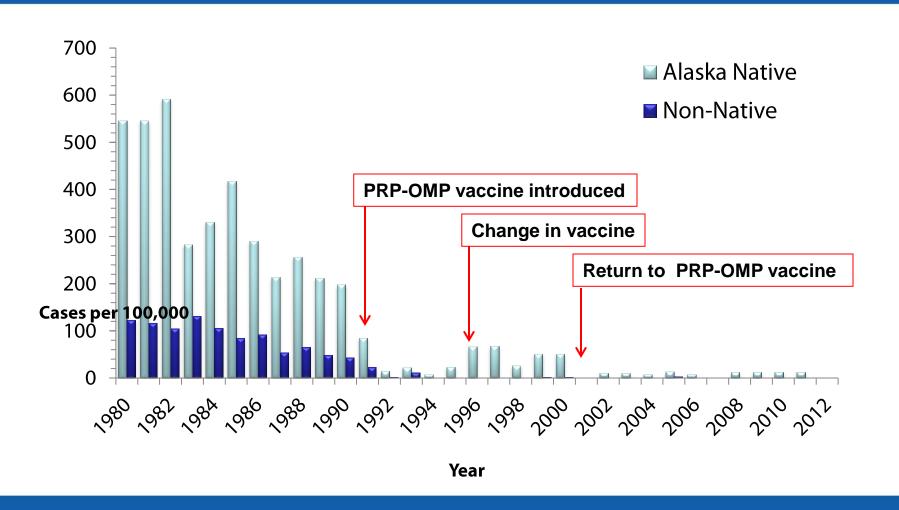
### Haemophilus influenzae

- ☐ Gram-negative bacteria
- Clinical illnesses
  - Meningitis, bacteremia, septic arthritis, pneumonia
  - Pre-vaccine era: 1 in 200 children contracted invasive infection
- Polysaccharide capsule with 6 serotypes (a–f)
- Vaccines for H. influenzae type b (Hib)
  - Protein-polysaccharide conjugate, 1991
    - Primary series in first year of life
    - Booster in 12–15 month-old children
  - Currently, 2 conjugate vaccines available in the United States
    - Efficacy >90%
    - Differ in timing to protection (after 1 dose versus after ≥2 doses)

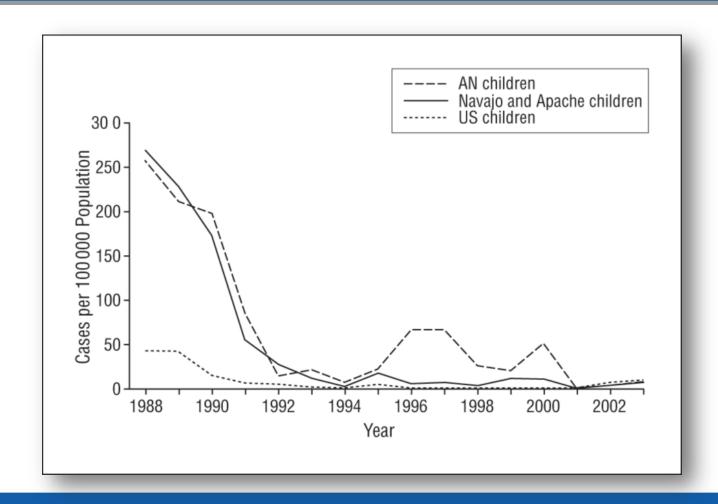
#### **Hib Disease in AI/AN Children**

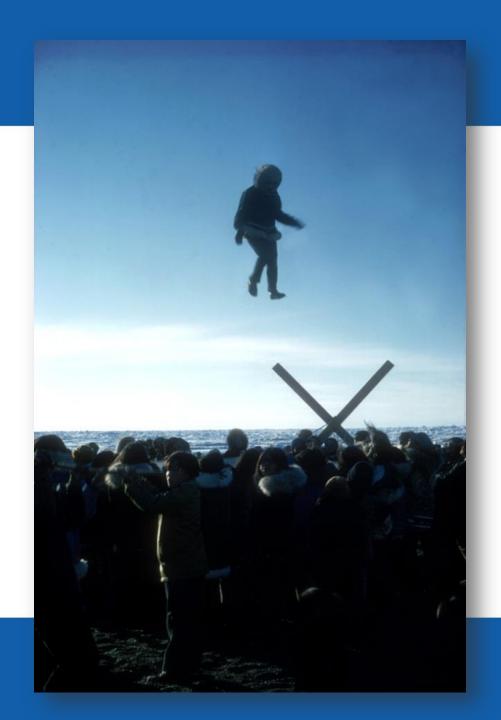
- Infant Hib rates were among highest in the world
  - Up to 700/100,000/ year before conjugate vaccine
    - Up 10 times higher than other U.S. infants
  - Leading cause of bacterial meningitis
- Laboratory-based surveillance established in the 1980s
  - Alaska, Navajo, White Mountain Apache
- Earlier age of illness onset for invasive infections
  - Median age for meningitis infections
    - AN 8 months; non-AN 11.5 months
  - Proportion of infections in infants <6 month old</p>
    - AN 23%; other U.S.12%
- PRP-OMP vaccine is preferred for AI/AN children
  - Provides protective antibodies after 1 dose
  - Addresses the earlier age of onset

# Invasive Hib Disease, Children Aged <5 Years Alaska, 1980–2012



### Incidence of Hib Disease in Navajo, Apache, Alaska Native, and U.S. Children <5 Years Old





Blanket toss, Alaska

### **Vaccination Programs for AI/AN Children**

- Available at no cost through VFC program
- ☐ IHS and Tribal Immunization Programs
  - Population-based approach
    - EHR for vaccine tracking and forecasting within facilities
    - Frequent administration of vaccine outside of health clinics
      - Public health nurses, community-health aides, pharmacists
      - Makes vaccine available to rural and remote populations
- State Immunization Information Systems (IIS)
  - Track immunizations from multiple providers
  - > 14 of 35 states with tribal health system have data exchange
    - 10 of 14 States with two-way data exchange can both provide and retrieve data

### Immunization Coverage among AI/AN Children

#### □ National Immunization Survey (NIS), 2006–2010

- Childhood immunizations, ages 19–35 months
- Similar uptake to U.S. White children for overall series
- > 2 regions had higher uptake among AI/AN for overall series
  - Alaska
  - Southwest: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada

#### **Elements of Success**

- Childhood vaccines have reduced or eliminated health disparities among AI/AN children
  - Universal access to vaccines
  - Population-based delivery and tracking systems
  - Epidemiologic support for
    - Disease surveillance
    - Program evaluation
    - Outbreak investigation
  - Policies that address the unique challenges in this population
    - HBV: Early use of maternal screening and infant immunization
    - Hib: Preferred vaccine for high risk AI/AN children

### Remaining Challenges for AI/AN Immunization Programs

- Regional differences in vaccine uptake
  - Improved local data are needed for program planning and action
- Better data connections
  - State immunization information systems and tribal providers
    - Need to increase number of two-way data exchanges
- Persistence of childhood vaccine-preventable disparities
  - Pneumococcal infections and pertussis
- Adult vaccine-preventable disease disparities
  - Pneumococcal infections, influenza
  - Can child immunization success be extended to adult AI/AN populations?

## **Immunization as a Path to Equity**





#### Alan R. Hinman, MD, MPH

Director for Programs

Center for Vaccine Equity

The Task Force for Global Health



#### **Outline**

- ☐ Immunization's role in reducing childhood infectious disease disparities in the United States
- Remaining major challenges: Global health disparities and how they are being addressed

# What is Responsible for the Reduction in Disparities in Immunization and VPD among Children in the United States?

- School immunization requirements
- Vaccines for Children program



### School Immunization Requirements

- □ In 1977, HEW Secretary J. Califano wrote to the governors of all states, urging enactment and enforcement of laws requiring immunization as a condition of school entry
- By 1981, all states had requirements
- Since 1981, >90% of children entering school have proof of immunization

### South Carolina State Vehicle Bumper Sticker, 1980s



# Measles Vaccine Coverage in 1–4 Year Olds in 1977 and 19–35 Months Old Children in 1996 and 2011

	1977 (USIS) %	1996 (NIS) %	2011 (NIS) %
Total	63.1	91	91.6
White	65.5	91	91.6
Other	52.0	NA	NA
Black	NA	89	90.8
Hispanic	NA	88	92.4

#### Measles and Rubella Elimination in the United States

- Measles elimination documented and verified in 2000
- □ Rubella and congenital rubella syndrome elimination documented and verified in 2004
- ☐ With no disease, there are no disparities

### **Immunization Disparities Globally**

#### ☐ Major disparities exist among and within countries

- Differences in vaccines used
- Differences in coverage levels



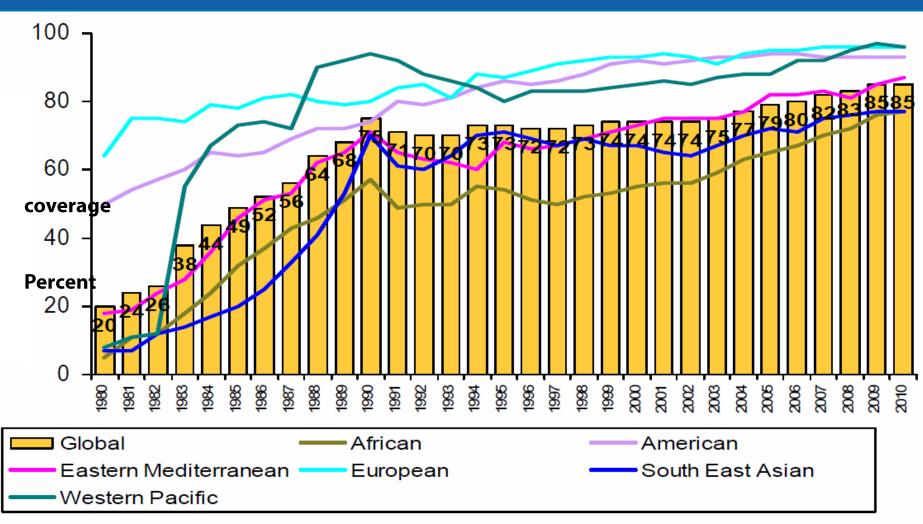
### **WHO Estimated Global Measles Mortality**

- **1980** 
  - > 2,500,000 deaths from measles more than 15 years after the measles vaccine had been introduced
- **2000** 
  - > 548,000 deaths; nearly 80% reduction
- **2011** 
  - > 158,000 deaths; a further 70% reduction

### **Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)**

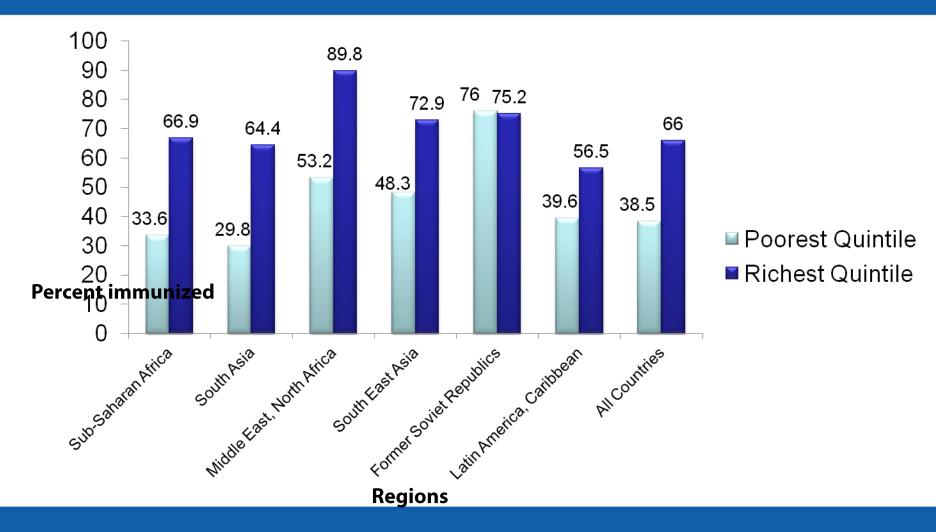
- ☐ EPI established in 1974 by the WHO
- □ CDC assignee (R. Henderson) seconded to WHO as director
- Originally included vaccines were BCG, DTP, OPV, and measles
- □ Hepatitis B and Hib vaccines added in 1990s, but implementation was incomplete

# Global Immunization 1980–2010 Global Coverage of DTP3 at 85% in 2010



e: WHO/UNICEE coverage estimates 2010 revision. July 2011: 193 WHO Member States. Date of slide: 29 July 2011

# DTP3 Immunization Rates among Poorest and Richest Population Quintiles, Regional Averages



**World Bank** 

### The GAVI Alliance Mission and Programs

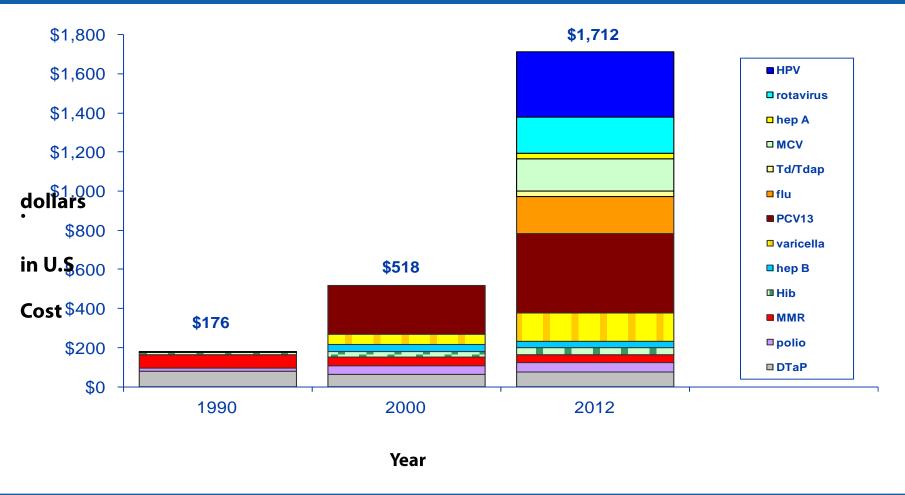
- □ To save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries
- Program areas
  - New and underused vaccines
  - Immunization services
  - Injection safety
  - Health system strengthening
  - Civil society organizations
    - Includes non-governmental, faith-based, and professional organizations

# Countries Eligible for GAVI Programme Support in 2013



56 Eligible Countries with Gross National Income per Capita <\$1,550/year

# Cost to Vaccinate One Child with Vaccines Universally Recommended from Birth through 18 Years of Age 1990, 2000, and 2012



2012 represents minimum cost to vaccinate a child (birth through 18); exceptions are 1) no preservative influenza vaccine, which is included for children 6–47 months of age, and 2) HPV for males and females Federal contract prices as of February 1, 1990, September 27, 2000, and April 24, 2012

# Per Dose Price of Vaccines VFC and UNICEF/PAHO, 2010–2011

Vaccine	VFC (\$)	UNICEF/PAHO (\$)
DTaP/DTP	13.25	0.16
Pentavalent*	34.25	2.70
IPV/OPV	11.48/NA	4.50/0.16
MMR	18.99	1.75
PCV13	97.21	3.50
Rotavirus	59.76	3–5
Mening 4/A	82.12/NA	NA/0.40

<sup>\*</sup>DTP/HepB/Hib

# Cost to Immunize a Child in GAVI-eligible Countries, 2010

Vaccine	Number of doses x per-dose price	Per-series cost
BCG	1 x \$0.06	\$0.06
Pentavalent*	3 x \$2.70	\$8.10
OPV	3 x \$0.16	\$0.48
Measles	1 x \$0.21	\$0.21
PCV13	3 x \$3.50	\$10.50
Rotavirus	3 x \$5.00	\$15.00
Administration		~ <u>\$15.00</u> ~\$50.00

<sup>\*</sup>DTP/HepB/Hib

# Countries with Annual Health Expenditures per Capita of <25 in 2010

Bangladesh	\$18.43
Burundi	\$19.71
CAR	\$19.34
DRC	\$15.58
Eritrea	\$10.12
Ethiopia	\$14.68
Guinea	\$18.77
Guinea-Bissau	\$18.36

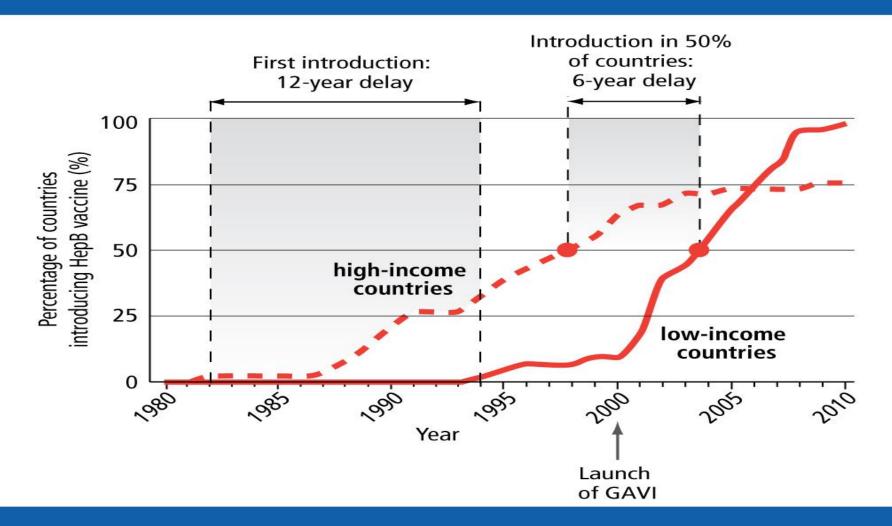
Madagascar	\$17.97
Malawi	\$19.07
Mauritania	\$21.92
Mozambique	\$24.72
Myanmar	\$12.47
Niger	\$20.89
Pakistan	\$22.50

# Annual Cost to Immunize All Children in GAVI-eligible Countries

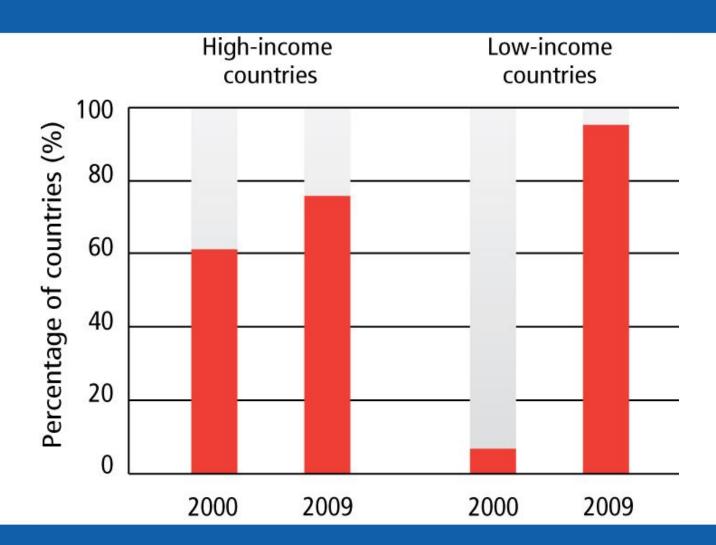
\$50 X 74 million births = \$3.7 billion

2011 U.S. expenditures on pets >\$50 billion

# Hepatitis B Vaccine Introduction in High- and Low-income Countries

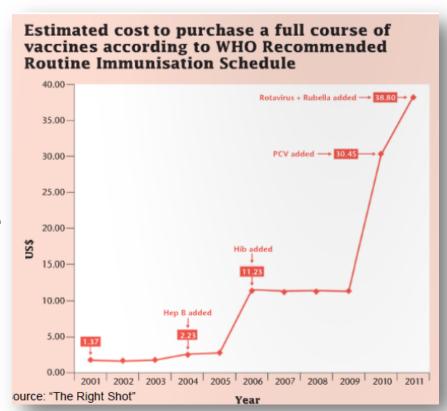


### **Routine Use of Hepatitis B Vaccines**

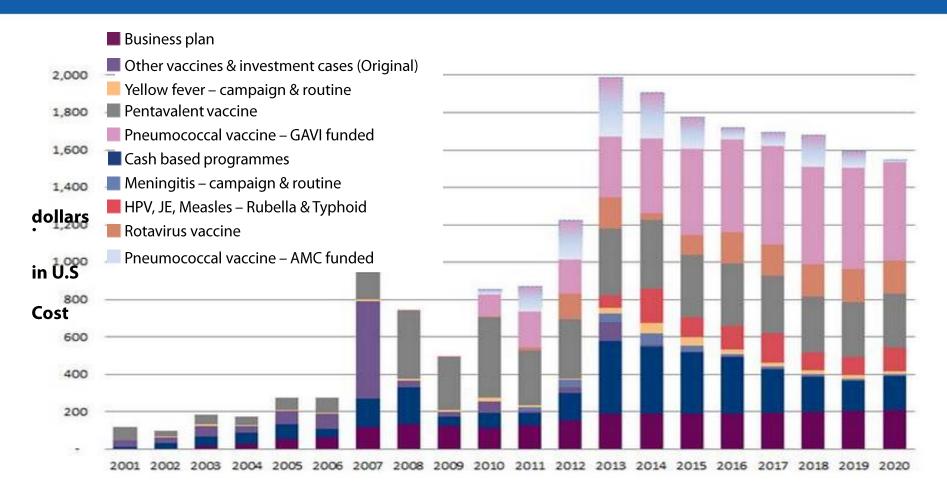


### The Rising Price of Immunizing One Child

- Baseline
  - > BCG
  - > 3 OPV, 3 DTP
  - Measles
- Cost added when WHO recommended and GAVI support more widely available
- □ Price increase of >2,700%
- Price will increase
  - GAVI HPV Window, etc.



# GAVI Alliance: Actual and Projected Disbursements (\$Million)



#### **Conclusions**

- Disease is bad! Vaccines are good!
- Children have a right to immunization
- Immunization is not equitably available
- Social justice will only be achieved when ALL the children of the world are able to enjoy the right to immunization

### CDC PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

# Childhood Immunization as a Tool to Address Health Disparities



